

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-3 have been canceled, thereby obviating the outstanding rejections. New claims 4-18 are submitted herewith.

Without limiting the scope of embodiments of the invention, only in an effort to impart precision to the claims (e.g., by more particularly pointing out embodiments of the invention, rather than to avoid prior art), and merely to expedite the prosecution of the present application, Applicant has introduced new independent claim 4 which recites limitations directed to:

a point of presence node communicatively connected to the at least one target computing network; and
at least one Internet Protocol Security concentrator resident in the point of presence node;
at least one access server resident in the point of presence node, wherein the access server comprises a virtual private network module which implements a secure communication channel between the remote computing client and the at least one server in the target communication network.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited art (alone or in combination) fails to disclose the claimed combination of features set forth in claim 4. For example, the cited art fails to disclose (or even suggest) the claimed "a point of presence node communicatively connected to the at least one target computing network," alone or in combination with the limitations of "at least one Internet Protocol Security concentrator resident in the point of presence node," and at least one access server resident in the point of

presence node, wherein the access server comprises a virtual private network module which implements a secure communication channel between the remote computing client and the at least one server in the target communication network." Thus, independent claim 4 is allowable over the cited references.

New Claims

New claims 4-5 are supported by the specification at least at paragraphs [0026] through [0032].

New claims 6-7 are supported by the specification at least at paragraphs [0040] through [0050].

New claims 8-9 are supported by the specification at least at paragraphs [0052] through [0056].

New claims 10-12 are supported by the specification at least at paragraphs [0200] through [0257].

New claim 13 is supported by the specification at least at paragraphs [0258] through [0268].

New claim 14 is supported by the specification at least at paragraphs [0286] through [0290].

New claims 15-16 are supported by the specification at least at paragraphs [0295] through [0303].

New claims 17-18 are supported by the specification at least at paragraphs [0310] through [0314].

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the present application. Should any issue remain that prevents immediate issuance of the application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss the unresolved issue.

Respectfully Submitted,
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Dated: November 6, 2007

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